

The Higgs mass and natural supersymmetric spectrum from the landscape

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Abstract

In supersymmetric models where the superpotential μ term is generated with $\mu \ll m_{soft}$ (*e.g.* from radiative Peccei-Quinn symmetry breaking or compactified string models with sequestration and stabilized moduli), and where the string landscape 1. favors soft supersymmetry (SUSY) breaking terms as large as possible and 2. where the anthropic condition that electroweak symmetry is properly broken with a weak scale $m_{W,Z,h} \sim 100$ GeV (*i.e.* not too weak of weak interactions), then these combined landscape/anthropic requirements act as an *attractor* pulling the soft SUSY breaking terms towards values required by models with radiatively-driven naturalness: near the line of criticality where electroweak symmetry is barely broken and the Higgs mass is ~ 125 GeV. The pull on the soft terms serves to ameliorate the SUSY flavor and CP problems. The resulting sparticle mass spectrum may barely be accessible at high-luminosity LHC while the required light higgsinos should be visible at a linear e^+e^- collider with $\sqrt{s} > 2m(\text{higgsino})$.

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The Standard Model is afflicted with several naturalness problems:

1. in the electroweak sector, why is the Higgs mass $m_h \simeq 125$ GeV so light when quadratic divergences seemingly destabilize its mass [1] and
2. why is the QCD Lagrangian term $\frac{\bar{\theta}}{32\pi^2} G_{A\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_A^{\mu\nu}$ so tiny ($\bar{\theta} \lesssim 10^{-10}$ from measurements of the neutron electric dipole moment) when its existence seems a necessary consequence of the θ vacuum solution to the $U(1)_A$ problem (the strong CP problem) [2]?
3. A third naturalness problem emerges when gravity is included into the picture: why is the cosmological constant $\Lambda \simeq 10^{-47} \text{ GeV}^4 \ll M_P^4$ so small when there is no known mechanism for its suppression [3]?

Each of these problems requires an exquisite fine-tuning of parameters to maintain accord with experimental data. Such fine-tuning is thought to represent some pathology with or missing element within the underlying theory and cries out for a “natural” solution in each case.

The most compelling solution to problem #1 is to extend the spacetime symmetry structure which underlies quantum field theory to include its most general structure: the super-Poincare group which includes supersymmetry (SUSY) transformations [4, 5]. The extended symmetry implies a Fermi-Bose correspondence which guarantees cancellation of quadratic divergences to all orders in perturbation theory. Supersymmetrization of the SM implies the existence of superpartner matter states with masses of order $M_S \sim 1$ TeV [5, 6]. Searches are underway at the CERN LHC for evidence of the superpartner matter states.

The most compelling solution to problem #2 is to postulate an additional spontaneously broken global Peccei-Quinn (PQ) symmetry and its concomitant axion field a which induces additional potential contributions that allow the offending CP violating term to dynamically settle to a tiny value [7–9]. Searches for the physical axion field are proceeding at experiments like ADMX [10] but so far sensitivity has barely reached parameter values needed to solve the strong CP problem.

At present the leading solution to problem #3 is the hypothesis of the landscape: a vast number of string theory vacua states each with different physical constants [11]. In this case, the cosmological constant ought to be present, but if it is too large, then the universe would expand too quickly to allow for galaxy condensation and there would be no observers present to measure Λ . This “anthropic” explanation for the magnitude of Λ met with great success by Weinberg [12] who was able to predict its value to within a factor of a few even well before it was measured [13].

While the SUSY solution to the scalar mass problem seems convincing at the level of quadratic divergences, there is a high level of concern that the fine-tuning problem has re-arisen in light of 1. the apparently severe LHC bounds on sparticle masses and 2. the rather high measured value of m_h . This perception arises from two viewpoints on measuring naturalness.

- Log-divergent contributions to the Higgs mass $\delta m_h^2 \sim \frac{-3f_t^2}{16\pi^2} m_t^2 \log(\Lambda^2/m_t^2)$ become large for TeV-scale top squark masses $m_{\tilde{t}}$ and Λ as high as $m_{GUT} \simeq 2 \times 10^{16}$ GeV [14]. This argument has been challenged in that a variety of inter-dependent log terms, some positive and some negative, contribute to the Higgs mass. Evaluation of the combined log terms via renormalization group equations reveals the possibility of large cancellations in evaluation of the Higgs mass [15, 16].

- The EENZ/BG fine-tuning measure [17] $\Delta_{\text{BG}} = \max_i \left| \frac{\partial \log m_Z^2}{\partial \log p_i} \right|$ (where p_i are fundamental parameters of the theory) is traditionally evaluated using the various soft SUSY breaking terms as fundamental parameters. In this case, low Δ_{BG} favors sparticle masses in the 100 GeV range. These evaluations have been challenged in that in more fundamental theories, the soft terms are not independent, but are derived in terms of more fundamental quantities, for instance the gravitino mass $m_{3/2}$ in supergravity theories. Evaluation of Δ_{BG} instead in terms of μ^2 and $m_{3/2}^2$ allows for just μ and m_{H_u} to be ~ 100 GeV while the other sparticles can safely lie at or beyond the TeV scale [15, 16].

A more conservative measure which is in accord with the above (corrected) measures is to evaluate just the weak scale contributions to the Z mass. The minimization condition for the Higgs potential $V_{\text{tree}} + \Delta V$ in the minimal supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) reads

$$\frac{m_Z^2}{2} = \frac{m_{H_d}^2 + \Sigma_d^d - (m_{H_u}^2 + \Sigma_u^u) \tan^2 \beta}{\tan^2 \beta - 1} - \mu^2. \quad (1)$$

The radiative corrections Σ_u^u and Σ_d^d include contributions from various particles and sparticles with sizeable Yukawa and/or gauge couplings to the Higgs sector. Expressions for the Σ_u^u and Σ_d^d are given in the Appendix of Ref. [18].

A naturalness measure Δ_{EW} has been introduced [18, 19] which compares the largest contribution on the right-hand-side of Eq. 1 to the value of $m_Z^2/2$. If they are comparable ($\Delta_{\text{EW}} \lesssim 10 - 30$), then no unnatural fine-tunings are required to generate $m_Z = 91.2$ GeV. The main requirement for low fine-tuning is then that

- $|\mu| \sim m_Z$ [20–22] (with $\mu \gtrsim 100$ GeV to accommodate LEP2 limits from chargino pair production searches) and also that
- $m_{H_u}^2$ is driven radiatively to small, and not large, negative values [18, 19]. Also,
- the top squark contributions to the radiative corrections $\Sigma_u^u(\tilde{t}_{1,2})$ are minimized for TeV-scale highly mixed top squarks [19]. This latter condition also lifts the Higgs mass to $m_h \sim 125$ GeV.
- First and second generation squark and slepton masses may range as high as 10-20 TeV with little cost to naturalness [18, 23].

The typical low Δ_{EW} SUSY mass spectra is characterized by 1. a set of light higgsinos \widetilde{W}_1^\pm and $\widetilde{Z}_{1,2}$ with masses $\sim 100 - 200$ GeV, 2. gluinos with mass $m_{\tilde{g}} \sim 1.5 - 4$ TeV, 3. highly mixed stops with mass $m_{\tilde{t}_1} \lesssim 3$ TeV and $m_{\tilde{t}_2} \lesssim 8$ TeV. Several versions of supergravity GUT models have been found to generate such “natural” spectra [24]. For instance, the two-extra-parameter non-universal Higgs mass model [25] (NUHM2) with matter scalars $m_0 \sim 3 - 10$ TeV, $m_{1/2} \sim 0.5 - 2$ TeV, $A_0 \sim \pm(1 - 2)m_0$ and $\tan \beta \sim 10 - 30$ with $m_{H_u} \sim (1.3 - 2)m_0$ and $m_{H_d} \sim m_A \sim 1 - 8$ TeV produces spectra with $\Delta_{\text{EW}} \lesssim 30$. In particular, the up-Higgs soft mass is as large as possible such that the RG running of $m_{H_u}^2$ nearly cancels out its GUT-scale boundary value $m_{H_u}^2(\Lambda)$, *i.e.* $m_{H_u}^2$ runs to small weak scale values $\sim -(100 - 200)^2 \text{ GeV}^2$ so that electroweak symmetry is *barely broken*. The soft terms, especially $m_{H_u}^2$, lie on the edge of

criticality: if $m_{H_u}^2$ is much bigger, then EW symmetry does not get broken while if $m_{H_u}^2(\Lambda)$ is much smaller, then it would likely generate a value of m_Z far beyond its measured value of 91.2 GeV.

While such effective theory parameters can successfully generate natural SUSY mass spectra, the question arises: is there some mechanism which favors parameters which barely break EW symmetry, and which generate a weak scale $m_{W,Z,h} \sim 100$ GeV rather than say in the TeV range? In this letter, we argue that the string landscape— which provides some understanding for the small but non-zero cosmological constant— also favors soft SUSY breaking terms as large as possible such that they generate a universe which is habitable for observers: if the soft parameters were much larger, then they would lead to a vacuum state with color breaking minima, or unbroken EW symmetry or if they were much smaller they would generate a weak scale characterized by the TeV regime. In the latter case, with $m_{W,Z,h} \sim 1 - 10$ TeV, then weak interactions would be far weaker than in our universe: then for instance nuclear fusion reactions would be sufficiently suppressed so that heavy element production in stars and in the early universe would be far different from that of our universe, likely leading to a universe with chemistry unsuitable for life forms as we known them.

This topic of anthropic selection of soft SUSY breaking terms has been addressed previously by Giudice and Rattazzi [26] with some follow-up work in Ref's [27] (for mixed moduli-anomaly mediated SUSY breaking models) and [28] (for mSUGRA/CMSSM model). One of the main differences of our work here is in the treatment of the superpotential μ parameter and the so-called SUSY μ problem. Under the Giudice-Masiero mechanism [29], where μ arises from Higgs doublet couplings to the hidden sector via the Kahler potential, then μ is expected to have magnitude of order the other soft terms: $|\mu| \sim m_{3/2}$. Alternatively, in the Kim-Nilles mechanism [30]— which is assumed here as an axionic solution to the strong CP problem— μ is initially forbidden by the requirement of Peccei-Quinn symmetry, but is then re-generated upon spontaneous PQ symmetry breaking at a scale $f_a \sim 10^{11}$ GeV with a value $\mu \sim f_a^2/M_P \ll m_{3/2}$. In models where PQ symmetry breaking is induced radiatively, then values of $m_{3/2} \sim 10$ TeV easily produce μ values around 100-200 GeV [31, 32]. In classes of compactified string models with sequestration between the visible sector and the SUSY breaking sector and with stabilized moduli fields [33], it is also found that $\mu \ll M_S$ where M_S stands for the approximate scale of the collective soft SUSY breaking terms. In this letter we will assume

- the superpotential μ term has been generated by some mechanism such as Ref. [32] or Ref. [33] to be small, comparable to $m_h = 125$ GeV.

Then, instead of fixing m_Z at its measured value, we will invert the usual usage of Eq. 1 to calculate $m_{W,Z,h} \sim m_{weak}$ as an *output* depending on high scale values of the soft terms and a small value of μ .¹

In the following, we will assume gravity-mediated supersymmetry breaking [35]. Gravity-mediation is supported by the large value of $m_h \sim 125$ GeV which requires a large trilinear A_0 term (generic in gravity-mediation) to provide substantial mixing in the stop sector and consequently a boost in the radiative corrections to the light Higgs mass [36, 37]. Gravity-mediated SUSY breaking can be parametrized by the presence of a spurion superfield $X =$

¹In this case, low values of Δ_{EW} can be re-interpreted as the likelihood to generate the weak scale $m_{weak} \sim 100$ GeV: *i.e.* $m_{weak} = \sqrt{\Delta_{EW} m_Z^2 / 2}$.

$1 + \theta^2 F_X$ where the auxiliary field F_X obtains a vev which we also denote by F_X (here θ are anti-commuting superspace coordinates). Under SUSY breaking via the superHiggs mechanism, then the gravitino gains a mass $m_{3/2} \sim F_X/M_P$ where $M_P = 2.4 \times 10^{18}$ GeV is the reduced Planck mass. The soft SUSY breaking terms are then all calculable as multiples of $m_{3/2}$ [38]. Motivated by supergravity grand unified theories (SUSY GUTs), here we assume the soft breaking terms valid at $Q = m_{GUT} \simeq 2 \times 10^{16}$ GeV include m_0 (a common matter scalar mass term), $m_{1/2}$ (a common gaugino mass), A_0 (a common trilinear soft term) and B . The latter soft term can be traded for the more common ratio of Higgs vevs $\tan \beta \equiv v_u/v_d$ via the electroweak minimization conditions. We also assume separate Higgs scalar soft terms $m_{H_u}^2$ and $m_{H_d}^2$ since the Higgs superfields live in different GUT representations than matter superfields [25]. It is convenient to denote collectively the superpartner mass scale M_S as the generic scale of soft terms.

It is reasonable to assume in the landscape that *any* value of the complex-valued field F_X is equally likely. In this case, one expects the magnitude of soft breaking terms to statistically scale linearly in M_S (the likelihood of a given value of M_S is proportional to the area of an annulus $2\pi F_X \delta F_X$ in the complex F_X plane). This is important because then we see a statistical draw of soft terms towards their largest values possible (while μ remains far smaller). In Ref. [26], additional arguments are presented that the likelihood of soft terms M_S scale as a power of M_S ; for our purposes here, we merely rely on a likely statistical draw by the landscape of vacua towards higher values of soft terms. This draw is to be balanced by the anthropic requirements that 1. electroweak symmetry is appropriately broken (no charge or color breaking minima of the Higgs potential) and 2. that the weak scale is typified by the values of $m_{weak} \sim m_{W,Z,h} \sim 100$ GeV. Rates for nuclear fusion reactions and beta decays all scale as $1/m_{weak}^4$ so that heavy element production in BBN and in stars would be severely altered for too large a value of m_{weak} ; see Ref's [39] for discussion.

Armed with a notion of both the statistical and anthropic pull from the landscape, we may examine the soft SUSY breaking terms. First, we expect the matter scalar mass m_0 as large as possible while maintaining $m_{weak} \sim 100$ GeV. If m_0 gets much beyond the 10 TeV scale, then the weak scale top squark masses $m_{\tilde{t}_{1,2}}$ become too large, increasing the radiative corrections $\Sigma_u^u(\tilde{t}_{1,2})$ in Eq. 1. For fixed $\mu \sim 100 - 200$ GeV, then this increases the resultant weak scale well beyond the anthropic target 100-200 GeV. Re-interpreting the limits on m_0 from Ref's [18, 23] requires $m_0 \lesssim 10$ TeV for $m_{weak} \sim 100$ GeV. Such large values of m_0 go a long ways towards solving the SUSY flavor and CP problems via a decoupling solution [40].

Likewise, we expect the gaugino mass $m_{1/2}$ as large as possible whilst maintaining $m_{weak} \sim 100 - 200$ GeV. If the gaugino masses are too large, then they feed into the stop masses via RG running and again the $\Sigma_u^u(\tilde{t}_{1,2})$ become too large. For $m_{weak} \sim 100$ GeV, then typically $m_{1/2} \lesssim 2$ TeV leading to a gluino mass bound $m_{\tilde{g}} \lesssim 4 - 5$ TeV: well above the reach of LHC14 [41].

What of the trilinear soft term A_0 ? In Fig. 1 we show the A_0 vs. m_0 plane for the NUHM2 model with $m_{1/2}$ fixed at 1 TeV, $\tan \beta = 10$ and $m_{H_d} = 1$ TeV. We take $m_{H_u} = 1.3m_0$. The plane is qualitatively similar for different reasonable parameter choices. We expect A_0 and m_0 statistically to be drawn as large as possible while also being anthropically drawn towards $m_{weak} \sim 100 - 200$ GeV, labelled as the red region where $m_{weak} < 500$ GeV. The blue region has $m_{weak} > 1.9$ TeV and the green contour labels $m_{weak} = 1$ TeV. The arrows denote the combined statistical/anthropic pull on the soft terms: towards large soft terms but low m_{weak} .

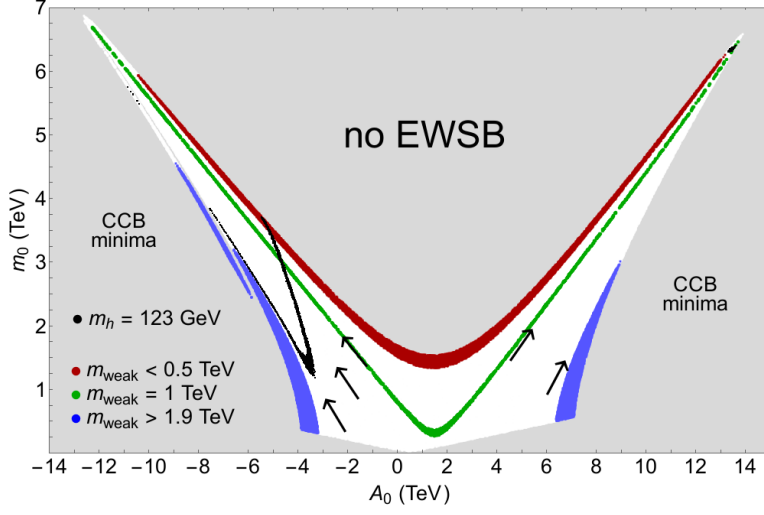


Figure 1: Contours of m_{weak} in the A_0 vs. m_0 plane for $m_{1/2} = 1$ TeV, $m_{H_u} = 1.3m_0$, $\tan\beta = 10$ and $m_{H_d} = 1$ TeV. The arrows show the direction of statistical/anthropic pull on soft SUSY breaking terms.

The black contour denotes $m_h = 123$ GeV with the regions to the upper left (or upper right, barely visible) containing larger values of m_h . We see that the combined pull on soft terms brings us to the region where $m_h \sim 125$ GeV is generated. This region is characterized by highly mixed TeV-scale top squarks [36, 37]. If instead A_0 is pulled too large, then the stop soft term $m_{U_3}^2$ is driven tachyonic resulting in charge and color breaking minima in the scalar potential (labelled CCB). If m_0 is pulled too high for fixed A_0 , then electroweak symmetry isn't even broken.

In Fig. 2, we show contours of m_{weak} in the m_{H_u} vs. $m_{1/2}$ plane for $m_0 = 5$ TeV, $A_0 = -8$ TeV, $\tan\beta = 10$ and $m_{H_d} = 1$ TeV. The statistical flow is to large values of soft terms but the anthropic flow is towards the red region where $m_{weak} < 0.5$ TeV. While $m_{1/2}$ is statistically drawn to large values, if it is too large then, as before, the $\tilde{t}_{1,2}$ become too heavy and the $\Sigma_u^u(\tilde{t}_{1,2})$ become too large so that m_{weak} becomes huge. The arrows denote the direction of the combined statistical/anthropic flow. The region above the black dashed contour has $m_h > 124$ GeV. The value of $m_{H_u}(GUT)$ would like to be statistically as large as possible but if it is too large then EW symmetry will not break. Likewise, if $m_{H_u}(GUT)$ is not large enough, then it is driven to large negative values so that $m_{weak} \sim$ the TeV regime and weak interactions are too weak. The situation is shown in Fig. 3 where we show the running of $sign(m_{H_u}^2)\sqrt{|m_{H_u}^2|}$ versus energy scale Q for several values of $m_{H_u}^2(GUT)$ for $m_{1/2} = 1$ TeV and with other parameters the same as Fig. 2. Too small a value of $m_{H_u}^2(GUT)$ leads to too large a weak scale while too large a value results in no EWSB. The combined statistical/anthropic pull is for barely-broken EW symmetry where soft terms teeter on the edge of criticality: between breaking and not breaking EW symmetry. This yields the other naturalness condition that m_{H_u} is driven small negative: then the weak interactions are of the necessary strength. These are just the same conditions for supersymmetric models with radiatively-driven natural SUSY (RNS) [18, 19].

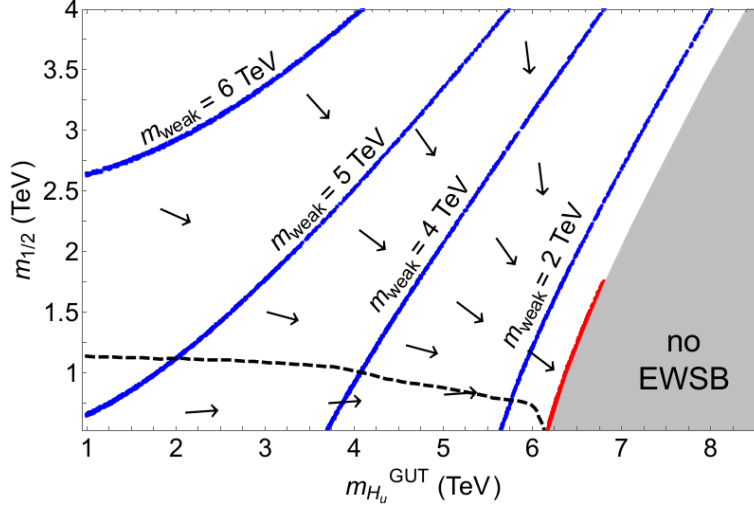


Figure 2: Contours of m_{weak} (blue) in the m_{H_u} vs. $m_{1/2}$ plane for $m_0 = 5$ TeV, $A_0 = -8$ TeV, $\tan \beta = 10$ and $m_{H_d} = 1$ TeV. Above the black dashed contour is where $m_h > 124$ GeV. The red region has $m_{weak} < 0.5$ TeV. The arrows show the direction of the statistical/anthropic pull on soft SUSY breaking terms.

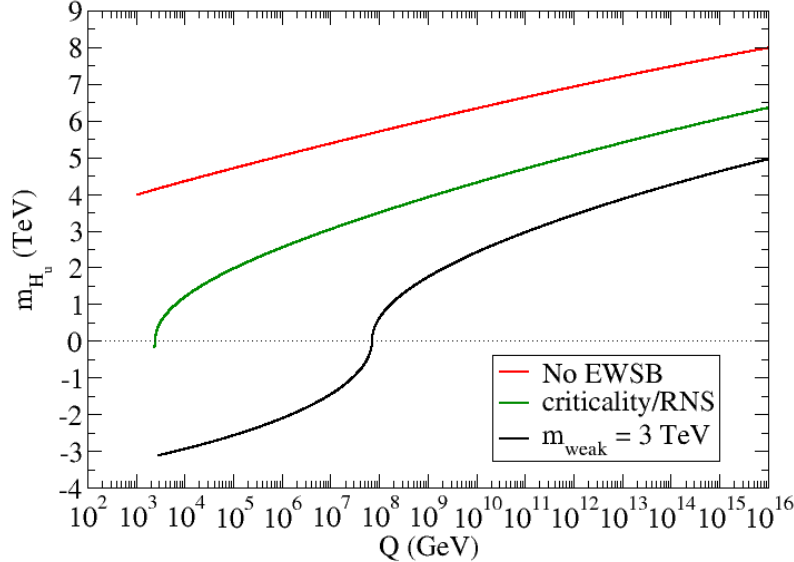


Figure 3: Evolution of the soft SUSY breaking mass squared term $sign(m_{H_u}^2)\sqrt{|m_{H_u}^2|}$ vs. Q for the case of no EWSB (upper), criticality (middle) as in radiatively-driven natural SUSY (RNS) and $m_{weak} \sim 3$ TeV (lower). Most parameters are the same as in Fig. 2.

Summary: The naturalness condition of no large unnatural cancellations in $m_{Z,h}$ requires small higgsino mass $\mu \sim 100 - 200$ GeV, $m_{H_u}^2$ driven small rather than large negative and not-too-large radiative corrections $\Sigma_u^u(i)$. There are mechanisms where $\mu \ll M_S$ —such as radiative PQ breaking— but is it merely luck that the soft terms are poised to be just large enough to guarantee also that $m_{weak} \sim 100$ GeV? Here, we argue that the statistical landscape pull towards large soft terms coupled with the anthropic pull towards the Goldilocks condition—small enough to break EW symmetry but not so small as to suppress weak interactions— gives the required conditions for SUSY with radiatively-driven naturalness and barely broken EW symmetry. While sparticles may barely be accessible to LHC, the required light higgsinos should be accessible to an e^+e^- collider with $\sqrt{s} > 2m(higgsino)$. We also expect ultimately detection of a higgsino-like WIMP [42] along with the axion.

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